

















# Mail Supplement.

## The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2964

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS PER QUARTER

### BIRTHS.

At Weachow, on the 23rd September, the wife of J. H. LOWRY, of a daughter.

At Newchwang, on the 25th September, the wife of GEORGE FAWCETT, of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

In the Union Church, Tientsin, on the 25th September, by the Rev. C. A. Stanley, Miss HELEN T. STANLEY, to Mr. ARTHUR ASSE.

On Saturday, the 26th September, 1891, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., ALBERT F. H. SAW, of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, to ELZA CORA FUNK, of the International Missionary Alliance.

At the British Consulate, Shanghai, by Judge Mowat, on 1st October, JOHN J. PORTER, Esq., missionary, eldest son of Samuel Egerton, Dublin, to EMMA GALE, second daughter of Joseph Gale, Newport, Monmouth-on-Usk, England.

### DEATHS.

At Newchwang, on the 19th Sept., 1891, E. B. DOWLEY, of typhoid fever.

At 45A, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 27th Sept., 1891, JENNIE, youngest daughter of W. B. and ELIZA Jane van Corbach, aged 3 years and 10 months.

## The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1891.

### THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA.

There would seem to be every reason for believing that, *malgré* all that has been predicted to the contrary, the National Bank of China has a prosperous future before it. This institution, as is well known, was started under immense difficulties. It poached on the supposed exclusive preserves of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and it is no secret how strenuously the "bull" element in the Court of Directors of the great local bank fought to strangle the threatened opponent at its birth. It is a matter of public knowledge that Mr. W. H. Fox, senior partner of RUSSELL & CO., was coerced into resigning his position of Director in the Shanghai Bank on account of his connection with the National Bank of China, and it has been pretty generally believed locally that the failure of the popular American firm was hastened, if not directly attributable, to the hostility shown towards Mr. Fox by his whilom colleagues. Why the latter gentleman should have been compelled to resign his position in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on account of his connection with the National Bank, while Mr. J. J. Keeswick is allowed to remain not only a director but absolute dictator of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, and Messrs. HOPKINS and MICHAELSEN openly represent powerful German banking interests, is one of those peculiar conundrums which are incomprehensible to the ordinary intellect, and which can only be elucidated by that *raison d'être* an outspoken and independent shareholder at a public meeting.

At the first ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the National Bank of China, held in London on July 30th, an informal resolution was unanimously passed to wind up the Bank, the reason given for this course being the failure of RUSSELL & CO. We have always viewed the proceedings at that gathering with suspicion, with more than suspicion, with the belief which has since become a certainty, that it was a packed meeting, a conspiracy, for reasons which ought to be sufficiently obvious, having for its object the quashing of the proposed Bank before it even got into working order. As a matter of fact the failure of RUSSELL & CO. had no positive bearing on the position of the National Bank; the advances to that firm were fully secured, and whilst admitting the vast influence the old "Keechong" hong could bring to bear on Chinese business, it was never contended that the existence of the new bank solely depended on the support and management of RUSSELL & CO. The Directors in Hongkong—and too much praise cannot be awarded to these gentlemen for the determined stand they took up against the various influences brought to bear upon them—checked the too evidently inspired and interested designs of the London shareholders; by deciding to proceed with the Bank's original mission, and the soundness of their judgment in so deciding has already been practically verified. The National Bank of China, to-day a thoroughly sound, "going" institution, enjoying the full confidence of the commercial world, and with a wide and apparently lucrative field of operations before it. And all in spite of a combined and determined opposition, which has by no means been confined to London.

A short time since, our Shanghai contemporary the *Mercy* tried in a somewhat remarkable editorial piece of special pleading to decry the National Bank and its prospects. Amongst other things the *Mercy* said:

"In view of the financial collapse in which Hongkong is at present, restricted, it would seem singular that such a wild venture should find any supporters at all, were it not that the atmosphere of the Colony, reeking with an aura of speculation, and in the midst of the share-market were not delirious enough, a few months ago, some fatuous idiot, with more imagination than brains, attempted to float what he pleased to call 'The Stock, Share and Debiture Investment Co., Limited,' with a capital of £1,000,000 upon a million dollars. This idea was apparently to 'send a shiver' to the 'John Shaw' and to encourage the moneyless to gamble even more wildly than they now do. With this usual excuse, the *Hongkong Telegraph* condemned the scheme, and, as a result, the first, and, it is evident, has been fully

justified by the result, for even happy-go-lucky Hongkong was not to be allured by such a baited snare, and the egregious noodle who conceived the project found his off-spring die still-born, killed by common sense and well-merited ridicule. Such speculations and speculators are the bane of the Colony, and it behooves the National Bank of China Directors to see that they have something more solid than delusive hopes behind them, ere they reject the wiser counsels of their London colleagues and engage in a well-nigh desperate duel with the Triton of Finance."

As our contemporary observes, we condemned the proposed "Stock, Share and Debiture Co., Ltd.," and the accuracy of our views have been thoroughly verified by results; but it is only fair to state that our principal basis of objection to the enterprise was the glaring fact, printed in large letters in the prospectus, that an utterly impracticable programme was proposed. The idea of the promoters was a good one in the abstract, but the line of country they adopted rendered financial success out of the question; and it was there where our condemnation of the scheme came in. However, our friend of the *Mercy* is altogether wrong in drawing any comparison between the proposed "Stock, Share and Debiture Investment Co., Ltd.," and the National Bank of China; these two concerns had absolutely nothing in common—the one was intended as a Trust Company, although in several main essentials it was painfully lacking; the other is a bank, based on substantial foundations, with excellent prospects of a sound and increasing business of a satisfactory character, and managed by men of good reputation and wide experience. It no doubt sounds ominous to prate about the National Bank of China having to "engage in a well-nigh desperate duel with the Triton of Finance"—although why such a simile should have been used to indicate the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank we quite fail to understand—but it is mere twaddle all the same. From present appearances, as indicated by that not altogether unreliable weather-glass, the local Share Market quotation list, "the Triton of Finance" would seem to have all its work cut out to retain its own position and prevent our prophetic utterance of months ago, that Bank shares would drop to 150 before the end of the year, from becoming a stern fact. And meanwhile the National Bank of China is going along slowly but surely, and so far as business is concerned has more than realised the most sanguine anticipations of its promoters.

### CHINA AND THE GREAT POWERS.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 3rd inst. says: "It was currently reported yesterday that the Foreign Ministers have announced to the Tsungli Yamen that they consider it useless to negotiate further, and that the Foreign Powers must now act for themselves."

### THE "TSAL-SING" BURNED AT HANKOW.

Telegraphic information has been received from the North that the steamship *Tsal-sing*, Captain Cain, was burned in Hankow harbour on Friday last, and is lost. So far, no detailed particulars have been received.

The *Tsal-sing*, as many of our sea-faring readers will doubtless remember, was formerly known as the *Pao-shing*, and about two years ago was burned to the water's edge near the Longtan wharf, in the Yangtze, when Captain Cain was drowned. The vessel was almost entirely rebuilt in Shanghai, considerably lengthened, and re-christened by the same sea now bears. Her nominal owners are Messrs. Bucheister & Co., and she was under charter to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire.

The *Tsal-sing* bore a somewhat prominent part during the recent riots at Wuhu, Captain Cain placing his ship at the entire service of the foreign community.

### SCARE AT TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tientsin, September 26th, 1891.

The following circular letter was issued to foreigners yesterday:—"The President and Chairman of the French and British Municipalities have the honour to request foreign residents at this port to meet at the Gordon Hall on Saturday, 28th inst., at 4 p.m. for the discussion of a matter of public interest."

(Sd.) DE BEZAUDE.

DETROIT.

By what I can understand, this meeting is to be called to arrange a plan of defence. Our City Fathers seem to have lost confidence in Li Hung-chang, who advised them:—"Keep away your gun-boats and I'll protect you." It may be that the Viceroy is a liar; but I don't think anything would occur, that he could give the necessary protection. The letter, as far as I can understand, is on account of a telegram which has reached us from Shanghai to the effect that Chinkiang and Foochow are in flames; Fokien, Kiangsu, Hunan, and Hooan in rebellion. It is an open secret that the villagers at Chinkiang and Ho-nai-hoo, and the inhabitants of the villages between Peking and there, and of the country between Peking and Peking, are also Chinkiang and Tientsin are armed, more or less, with Winchester rifles and cartridges to match. These places are reported to be strongholds of the *Kolao* *Angels*. Even to-day, a steamer from Hongkong, the *Sinkiang*, was boarded by the Customs officers, who found 150 rifles and other arms and ammunition on board, which were promptly seized; and on the last trip of this vessel, a large quantity of arms was also seized. A strange feature in these affairs is that, after the capture of the Customs hold, no inquiry into the matter, and do not seem a bit anxious to find out by whom the arms were shipped, to whom consigned, or anything else in connection with the matter, but they simply confiscate the arms and reward the informers to whom the seizures are due.

Nice (Santal and family) left here to-day, per *Halyon*, for their home in Niagara. Mr. Huch succeeds Mr. Ma Kie Ching in the *C. M. & Co.* Shanghai *Mercy*.

### THE "HONG-ANN" INQUIRY.

THE CAPTAIN'S CERTIFICATE SUSPENDED FOR A YEAR.

The Marine Court of Inquiry, held at Singapore in connection with the loss of the British steamer *Hong-Ann*, delivered the following finding on September 28th:

"The Court, having carefully considered the evidence produced before it regarding the circumstances leading to the loss of the British steamer *Hong-Ann*, (Official No. 77, 121) on the morning of the 5th August, 1891, finds as follows:—That the said steamer *Hong-Ann* was following to the absence of any precautions taken by the Captain to ascertain his position, whilst passing through a dangerous passage in thick weather."

The Court is of opinion that the ship struck on the 13 fathom patch, 17½ miles to the northward of Taguigui Island, N.E. coast of Borneo. From the examination of the Chief Engineer it appears that all the stokers, with the exception of one, left the stokehold, going on deck as soon as the ship struck, and that the Captain was not informed of this fact at the time, so that no attempt was made to induce the stokers to return to their duty. "The Court is of opinion that the Chief Engineer grossly neglected his duties."

Under these circumstances the Court adjudges that Captain Richard Taylor's certificate be suspended for twelve months, allowing him to apply for a mate's certificate during that period; and with regard to the Chief Engineer, James Gibb, the Court is of opinion that he is deserving of the severest censure for the way in which he appears to have carried out his duties after the ship struck."

J. LESLIE THORNTON, President.  
J. S. HUGHES, L. Commander, R.N. Naval Officer.  
J. M. DALY, Master Mariner. Assessors.  
J. CRAIG, Master Mariner. Assessors.  
September 28th, 1891.

### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Swift* arrived at Shanghai from Hankow on the 1st inst.

The British squadron was expected to leave Hakodate on the 30th ult.

The Chinese cruiser *Ling-shing* was at Ichang, by latest advices from the North.

The French gunboat *Asile* returned to Shanghai from the Yangtze ports on September 30th.

The broken Hill Proprietary mine returns 200,000 monthly with the greatest regularity. What's the matter with Fungjoms (and Imuris)?

Burglar—Sly, Jim, whatever been doing? You must have struck it rich!  
Ditto No. 2.—I'm in a new line, now, I'm dealing in Imuris.

RECENTLY issued estimates show that the projected railway line in Japan are to cost ¥1,300,000,000; the length of the line is computed at 5,200 miles.

THE French gunboat *Asile* arrived at Shanghai on the 30th ult., and the U.S. gunboat *Monocacy* was also expected to arrive there on the 1st inst. The latter is to proceed up the Yangtze.

Giblets—Bless my soul, there's a man reading the *Swail* on the Club verandah.  
Joblots—Not quite. He is taking a nap.  
Giblets—Well, it's about the same thing!

YESTERDAY morning the steamship *Fokien* proceeded to the quarantine ground and took off the passengers from the Ocean Co.'s steamer *Bataphon*. After embarking the passengers, the *Fokien* steamed through the harbour flying the yellow flag, en route for Swatow.

LI HUNG-CHANG reports to the Throne that the copper seal of the Tientsin Brigade-General has been in use now for some hundred and forty years and that the characters thereon have been completely worn away. He therefore requests that the Board of Rites be directed to have a new seal engraved.

THE *Peking Gazette* of the 4th September announces that Prince Ching has been appointed President of the Admiralty Board; Ting An, Lieut. General of the plain white banner (Chinese) and Liu K'un-I, Governor-General of the Liang Kiang, have been appointed Assistant Directors of Naval Affairs.

We met "Bucey" in Queen's Road yesterday forenoon. The rental newspaper of the local Share Market smiled benignly when we asked him if the new Share Bill had disturbed his rest. It hadn't, he said, worth a cent. Another clear case of the engineer being hoist with his own petard, we fancy. A sad business in these hard times.

### THAT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

The way the wind is blowing, is shown by news and tidings.

The Government of China orders half-a-million rifles.

But his Excellency gets out an *Extraordinary Gazette*.

And says they can't import 'em—that is, not just yet!

We would request the Hongkong Government, in connection with the connection with directors of public companies making use of monies belonging to shareholders, that the introduction of a short ordinance making it a felony for any director to borrow money from his own company, would meet a long felt want. Had this been the law during the past few years, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation would have saved its shareholders some lakhs of dollars.

We beg to inform the select portion of our community who are not regular subscribers to the *Hongkong Telegraph*, that this invaluable journal, the only honest and independent newspaper ever published in this colony, containing all the latest news of the world, telegrams, local items in prose and verse, original articles on matters of public interest, editorials on leading subjects of the hour, etc., etc., will, on and after this date, be on sale in the vicinity of the Hongkong Hotel, the Club, Victoria Hotel, and Pender's Wharf, between 5 and 6 p.m. PRICE, TWENTY CENTS, CASH. This new departure has been under consideration for a very long time, and in putting it into actual practice we intend to show the *Telegraph* how it should be conducted, how the low and contemptible policy they have thought fit to adopt—because somebody said something that some noble Deutscher didn't like—must prove in the long run. It may interest advertisers to know that the *Hongkong Telegraph* has a larger circulation than any other two English newspapers published in the Far East.

Mr. Simper—Mr. Lung, which do you consider the more attractive, the ladies of China or those of England?

Mr. Lung—My like Chinese gal velly good; my like Ingis gal some better; my like black pig-gal most all same.

A CORRESPONDENT asks us to define the position of the Hon. J. J. Keeswick, M.L.C., in this colony. Not an easy task; but if we may be the divine head of the wealthy lower orders who try to "run" this colony for their own especial benefit, we shall not be very wide of the mark.

It has been stated that the over-draft account at a recent audit of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's books was quite a revelation to the auditors. Certain Directors had been helping themselves to some time; but no explanation has yet been made to the victimised shareholders.

ANOTHER "drop" in the shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and a wretched outlook for the immediate future. *Keeswick's Share Bill* had, so far, quite failed to prove a panacea for all the ills afflicted with the local share dealing. We rather think the honorable member for Jardine's will regret his little bit of special legislation before the opera is over.

A NORTHERN contemporary learns from a native source that a large fire occurred at Hankow on the 26th ult., destroying over 1,000 houses, but fortunately no lives were lost. As usual on such occasions, a great crowd of people assembled, but they were very orderly, and no attempt was made to get up a riot; there was besides a noticeable absence of rowdies and pickpockets.

The *N. C. Daily News* learns on the best authority that there was no Chinese official stamp of any kind on the import of opium from the Customs officer Mason in the steamer *Ching-shan*, nor anything to connect General E. Tung-ling of Chinkiang, with them. They were packed and matted as ordinary Canton cargo, and were simply marked with foreign initials in the usual way.

In the San Francisco court, before Judge Rix—Attorney Craig (for the defendant), addressing counsel for plaintiff—You're a liar.  
Attorney Horne—You are a—(anything but a gentleman).

Then the bailiff of the court intervened and prevented bloodshed. Reminds one of Francis Q.C., and Acting Attorney-General Leach, exchanging polite amenities in the Hongkong Supreme Court.

We learn on good authority that the dense darkness which now enshrouds the favored community of Shanghai is about to be dispelled by the advent of another newspaper which is to be controlled by Mr. G. W. Ward, lately a member of the staff of the *Hongkong Telegraph*. This may be true, for strange things do happen in the East, but we prefer to await the appearance of this latest venture in the troubled and uncertain sea of journalism before saying anything further on the subject.

The petty officers and men of H.M.S. *Pigmy* celebrated the event of their approaching departure from the China station, by giving a farewell dinner at the Naval Seamen's Club on Saturday night last. A most successful and enjoyable evening was spent, the jambores being voted one of the most orderly and best conducted that has taken place in the Club for a long time, nothing circulating, in fact, but good nature and "generous wine." The date of the *Pigmy's* departure has not yet been decided on.

An editorial in the *Hijiao*, referring to the shaky state of China's finances and export trade, says that it is no wonder they are bad, when her principal traffic is in opium and the Manilla lottery, which is gradually drawing away the wealth of the country. In former years the highest number in the lottery was 25,000, but it is now 45,000, nearly double the former figure. The greater part of the Government's expenditure is in high time the Government steps in and checks this large monthly expenditure, which is proving a fatal drain on the country's resources.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes under date 24th ult. that—"Mr. Ma Kie Tseong is now staying with Tsoai Yang Hui Tang, chief director of the railway, who is a special favourite with the Viceroy, although Li Hung-chang retained Mr. Swire to manage the railway. The Viceroy has also assigned to Mr. Ma the management of the steamship companies (Ma) had to quit when he got here. Although Li and the Viceroy of Nanking are the real heads of the C. M. S. N. Coy., the former had no choice in regard to Ma. It is known that the rent dispute over the Company's premises in Shanghai will not tend to help Ma to regain his lost position, nor in getting charge of the cotton mills."

The first rifle competition of the season took place on Saturday last at Kowloon at the 200 and 300 yards ranges. Conditions were 7 rounds and a lighting shot at each distance, and the following is the result of the shooting:

Rank	Name	200 yds.	300 yds.	Grand Total
1st	Mr. E. Robinson	35	35	70
2nd	P. C. M. Lennan	34	34	68
3rd	Sept. Mack	33	33	66
4th	Col. J. J. Keeswick	32	32	64
5th	Col. J. J. Keeswick	31	31	62
6th	Mr. E. Robinson	30	30	60

The shooting on the whole was not good.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Foochow to the *N. C. Daily News* under date the 26th ult.—"The statement published at your port regarding the notification issued by H.B.M. Acting Vice-Consul at the Pagoda Anchorage on the 19th inst., is perfectly true. I refrained from publishing the news on the 20th, having made a point of finding out all the information the Vice-Consulate was possessed of at the time. I looked upon the issuing of such a notification as entirely unwarranted, and I was hoping the mistake would not be known beyond the limits of the port. But for this notification nobody would have known that there was 'this all-gilt prospect of trouble.' As it is, the community at the Pagoda Anchorage has been kept in a state of great anxiety for a week already. Whether anything will ever happen, nobody knows for certain; excepting, it is said, the Commissioners of Customs. Rumor has it that the *Kolao* Hui are going to 'take the Arsenal and that they have fifty foreigners coming from Hongkong to assist them.' H.B.M. Acting Vice-Consul at the Pagoda sent two of his boatmen to the city because he suspected them of being *Kolao* Hui men; but they have been examined by the authorities and released. Some shopkeepers and residents near the Arsenal are moving away, frightened by the talk and circulating a version of the French bombardment seven years ago. Everything is perfectly quiet in the city."

The foreign residents of Tientsin have held a meeting for the purpose of making arrangements to guard themselves in case of a Chinese outbreak. It was decided to ask that a garrison should at once be sent up for the protection of the community.

LATEST advices from the North state that H.M.S. *Archer* and *Hill* are at Hankow. A Chinese cruiser is at Wuchang; the *Incubant* is at Kiangnan; the *Peacock* and three Chinese gunboats are at Wuhu; there are two Chinese cruisers at Nanking, and the *Redpole* and two Chinese cruisers are at Chinkiang.

ACCORDING to the Yokohama correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* "several cases of cholera have occurred amongst the Japanese at Yokohama, and the disease appears to be of a particularly virulent type; most of these seized succumbing. Quarantining will doubtless be insisted upon, but the port is no better off than the infected ports. The weather is most warm and changeable, but thus far a destructive summer 'blow' has not been experienced."

An advertiser went to the *China Mail* office the other day and wanted to be informed as to the circulation of that wonderful print:—"Did he obtain the information? Not much," Browne! knows a trick worth two of that. The Hongkong Club subscribes for three copies of the *China Mail* for two, the two leading hotel owners each—total 7. Of course there are several other subscribers—missionaries half-price, we believe—but we don't know where they hang out. Notwithstanding "Browne's" weekly victimisation, the *Mail* is not a popular journal even amongst the elect.

The *Shanghai Mercury* learns that a very important arrest has been made by the Chinese officials in connection with the recent seizure of arms. A man who resided alternately at Chinkiang and Shanghai, passing under different names at each place, but known here as Chan Kin-long, was strongly suspected of acting in concert with Mr. Mason. The Chinkiang officials consequently sent an agent down here a short time since with instructions to effect this man's arrest. Upon enquiry being made at his residence in the French Concession, it was discovered that, anticipating trouble, he had taken flight. He was located into the country and news of his arrest reached here early this morning. The man is said to be one of the leaders of the *Kolao* Hui.

At a meeting of the foreign members of the Foochow community held recently to devise means for the protection of the Settlement, and the formation of a volunteer corps, a fiery Teuton present, with all the eloquence he could command, urged the meeting that the only road to their salvation led through the stationing of a couple of Gatling guns, posted to protect the bridge, and in addition the country and new news of his arrest reached here early this morning. The man is said to be one of the leaders of the *Kolao* Hui.

The Japanese in San Francisco have had a quarrel since the year 1877, with the League, which first published its organ, a paper called *New Japan*, but when it had reached its sixteenth number, its distribution in Japan was prohibited. The *Nineteenth Century* was then started, but it soon met with a similar fate. *Liberty* was the next publication, but after the appearance of the seventy-eighth number, its distribution was prohibited. According to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the last issue of which arrived from San Francisco last week, later advices inform us that the *Yomiuri* has had the ban of prohibition placed upon it too, so the promoters of this latest red flag will now have to choose another medium for the promulgation of their revolutionary ideas. And there is nothing like trying.

THOUGHT the Hankow correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* under date September 26th:—"One of the Roman Catholic fathers here has received a letter, dated August 26th, from a friend living on the northern borders of Hunan, saying that he (the writer) had heard from native sources of the projected riot at Ichang and the burning of foreign property at that place, and, hoping that the priests and nuns were all safe. This is indisputable proof that the riot was premeditated, and not a spontaneous outbreak, as has been contended in some quarters, for the rumour that it was coming off was freely circulated among the people of Hunan five days before the storm burst. It is now impossible to pretend to believe that the authorities did not know it was coming also, and no adequate reason whatever can be advanced for measures not having been taken beforehand to prevent the disturbance. Instead of vigorous action being taken at the proper moment we are asked to accept the old and unpalatable excuse of the officials when everything is over, they were not able to cope with the people."

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date the 26th ult.—"The developments of the last few days have made it seem desirable that some plan for the defence of the Foreign Settlement should be arranged and understood in case trouble should arise. There is little doubt about it, as much anxiety, and preparations are never out of place and, prevention is better than cure. Quite a considerable quantity of arms have been seized on recent incoming steamers, which may or may not indicate that the rebellious plans of the central provinces are extending to us. Rumours have also reached us to the effect that the officials in Chinkiang have refused to obey the newly appointed Governor, which seems to point towards rebellion. It may be only rumour, however. In view of these things, and the possibilities that hang upon them after what has occurred in the south, it has seemed wise to call a public meeting to consider the situation, which meeting was held this afternoon at 4 o'clock. There was a very full attendance, and a Committee of twelve was appointed to consider and arrange plans for the defence of the settlement in case of necessity. Great credit was expressed in the debate and ability of the Viceroy to maintain peace and quiet by one of the best informed of the promoters of the meeting. We feel no special alarm, yet after the recent news in regard to Chinkiang, Foochow, and Amoy, we cannot help having a degree of anxiety, but the rebellious spirit spreads even to these parts. It is not, of course, a matter of the first importance that some one of the Powers should send a gunboat here, at once, in view of the spirit of the people, but it is spreading from the city of Peking, and it is said that any news in the Viceroy's hands bolsters the tales about fighting with eyes."

The Italian cruiser *Vulture* left Shanghai for Hankow on the 2nd inst., where it is expected she will remain about a month.

H.M.S. *Leander* is now on her way down from Japan to escort the *Exe* to Shanghai. The *Pigmy*, we understand, is about to fly the homeward bound pennant.

I know that British play, at times, would pretty far go.  
But I never thought would interfere with working Sunday Cargo.  
But with this law, as with others, to escape it there's a way.  
You can work on Sunday, surely—if you'll only pay!

THE *N. C. Daily News* says that an urgent telegram was received in Shanghai on October 1st for the steamship *Cass* (one of the late Governor of Formosa's clippers) to be sent at once to Keelung, and that if any cargo was engaged for her it was to be shut out. The *Cass* left Shanghai on the 2nd and it was thought that her mission was to take troops across to Foochow, to assist in quelling the disturbances at Ninghsan.

We thank "Well-wisher" for his no doubt well-intended advice; but we hope we are old enough to know our own business! We have declined to supply the Hongkong Club and some other institutions with copies of the *Telegraph* for reasons which appear all-powerful to us—and that ought to be sufficient. It is no matter of personal feeling, but purely a question of business. It has been very well said that a newspaper should be like a tooth-brush—everybody should have one of his own and not borrow his neighbour's—or "sponge" on a club or hotel.

Says the Singapore *Straits Times* of September 26th:—"The difficulty of getting a quorum at today's Taining Paper Land Company meeting, and the difficulty which occurs, at a great many company meetings, suggested a proposal that the members of the newspapers might be presented with a share in every public company for the purpose of helping to make up a quorum. The difficulty, however, immediately presents itself, in effect, a 50% liability, and a gift of that kind might conceivably be a doubtful boon to the gentlemen of the press, who ought not to be asked to take risks for the public good."

THE Newchwang correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary writes on the 26th:—"We have not yet agreed for a gunboat to be stationed here during the winter, but it is not unreasonable to expect that our port will be protected in some way or other. In these troublous times, for when we are so bound we shall be completely at the mercy of any mob that may attack us, and shall not even be able to run away, because there is not any place to which we can run. There are not any members of the *Kolao* Hui actually residing here as far as is known, but the 'fraternally' (not meant as a pun on the society's name) sympathies all run round the empire, and it is well known that arms and ammunition have been smuggled to a great extent as could not be always prevented by the praiseworthy vigilance of the Customs. The crops we hear are in good order, and new peas are eagerly looked for by exporters who may have tonnage already engaged. A third attempt was made the other day to impose a new *li* (tax), a kind of tonnage duty on small boats, but the opposition of guilds and merchants was so strong that the collectors left without anything. The Government is not a very firm one, if the people can have their own way as they have had in this matter."

MESSRS. WHEATLOCK & Co. in their latest report issued at Shanghai on the 2nd inst., say:—"The past fortnight affords no opportunity of recording an improvement in our freight market; rates remain unchanged, with a continued scarcity of cargo." Continuing:—"Some forward settlements, Newchwang to London, have been made at rates ranging from 17 to 18 cents per ton, and from Wuhu to Whampoa, equities are made for outside tonnage at 11, and at 12 cents per ton against 13 and 14, settled by the regular liners, but the demand is not brisk, and Nagasaki to Shanghai. Advices of the outbreak of coal strikes very unfavorable and there is no business offering. For London via usual ports of call and Suez Canal. The wet weather that has prevailed during the past week has interfered with the shipping of goods, and the *Taiwan* and *Shanghai*, and their departs have consequently been delayed; the former leaves to-morrow, the latter the following day. The number of clearances during the fortnight has relieved the market of a quantity of tonnage, and the only vessel circulated is the *Palamedes*, for dispatch on the 7th instant. For New York via Suez Canal. Since the departure of the *Lennox*, the berth has been occupied by the *Guy Manning*, which arrived from Japan a few days since and has secured all the cargo requisite to fill her hold to the top. She clears to-morrow, and will be followed by the *Benjamin*, due from Japan about 11th instant. Rate of freight for both vessels, 40s. per ton for tea and general cargo only having sailed via Hongkong, leaves the berth to the American ship *Luzon*, enquires for tonnage; also coming in very sparingly, and it is probable that she will sail at an early date for Hongkong, where cargo awaits her. Departures for London via the usual ports of call, and Suez Canal. The *Kamuro* 27th instant; *Dard* 28th; *Idem* 29th; *Garmarney* 30th; *Idem* 31st; *Idem* 1st; *Idem* 2nd; *Idem* 3rd; *Idem* 4th; *Idem* 5th; *Idem* 6th; *Idem* 7th; *Idem* 8th; *Idem* 9th; *Idem* 10th; *Idem* 11th; *Idem* 12th; *Idem* 13th; *Idem* 14th; *Idem* 15th; *Idem* 16th; *Idem* 17th; *Idem* 18th; *Idem* 19th; *Idem* 20th; *Idem* 21st; *Idem* 22nd; *Idem* 23rd; *Idem* 24th; *Idem* 25th; *Idem* 26th; *Idem* 27th; *Idem* 28th; *Idem* 29th; *Idem* 30th; *Idem* 31st; *Idem* 1st; *Idem* 2nd; *Idem* 3rd; *Idem* 4th; *Idem* 5th; <







Depreciation Account, Manager's House, &c.	1,654.51
Fuel	5,659.32
Boat and Cart Hire	762.45
Shipping and Landing Charges and Freight	685.66
Commission and Charges	87.85
	<b>\$ 9,849.74</b>

By Interest	4,878.02
Transfer Fees	62.00
Balance	54,885.40
	<b>\$ 60,823.49</b>

Hongkong, 26th August, 1891.  
W. HUTTON, PORTS, Secretary.

We have compared the above Statement with the Books and Vouchers at the Head Office and have found the same correct.

F. HENDERSON, Auditor.  
V. A. (ESAR HAWKINS), Auditor.  
Hongkong, 4th September, 1891.

### THE PUNJON AND SUNGHEI DU SAMANTAN MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report to be presented to the shareholders at the sixth ordinary yearly meeting, to be held at the office of the Company, No. 9, Queen's Road, on Thursday, the 15th October, 1891, at noon:

The Directors beg to submit the accounts for the half-year ending 31st March, 1891, from which it will be seen that the expenditure on working account was \$10,913.08. At date of the above report the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company (Limited) was indebted to us to the extent of \$36,481.11.

The Chairman of your Board visited Pahang in August, and his report, which is annexed, gives in detail the various works and operations of the Company.

Mr. Blamey has shown great skill in exploiting the Gubau deposits, and his reports have been concise and practical, and have been followed no doubt with great interest by many of the shareholders.

The Directors have taken steps to bring the Gubau fields to the notice of capitalists, and with this object Mr. Hardie has been granted leave of absence, and during his stay in Australia will endeavour to sell a portion of our concession.

Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, London, have also been interested in the concession, and will send their Pahang representative to report on the Company's property, with the view of the disposal of the property in London.

It is with regret that the Directors have to report that the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company of London has not been able to discharge the debt due to this Company. However, work has been steadily carried on at Jalla.

The last crushing at Jalla gave a yield of about 7 dwts. out of an assay value of about 1 ounce; this low result is due to the lack of suitable machinery, and the large reserve of reefing stuff fully warrants the construction of an entire new mill.

The last report issued stated that it was proposed to give the London Company notice of our intention to resume possession at the end of a period not exceeding six months. Your Directors have not done so, as the advice of our London representatives is very strongly against such a course; they have considerable hope that the position of the guarantors will be improved, and with the matter left in their hands. The Directors are satisfied that they are pushing the matter to a settlement as vigorously as possible, and that no undue leniency is being shown.

The Directors regret that the issue of \$6,000 of preference shares was not fully subscribed, only \$2,500 having been applied for. With such a small amount it is impossible to undertake any considerable amount of work, and every effort should be made to strengthen the hands of the Company by the raising of the small amount yet required.

Mr. Hardie has continued to act as our resident manager at Penjom, and also for the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company; and Mr. Blamey has had charge of all the Company's business outside of the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company's property. The expenses of the Company have been heavy, but have been considerably reduced during the past six months. The unexpected drought prevented the running of the steamer, and consequently very little money was earned.

The Directors wish to record their sense of the valuable services rendered by your representatives in London—Messrs. Ewart and Brodie. Both of these gentlemen are devoting a very great deal of time and attention, and the latter being thoroughly acquainted with the locality and with your views, his services are of the utmost value to us in the present juncture.

Mr. Wotton has resigned his seat at the Board. Article 15 of the Company's Articles of Association provides that the Board "shall consist of not less than five or more than nine Directors," and it rests with the shareholders to elect one or more additional members.

Under clause 5 of Article 15 of the Company, Mr. James Orange and Mr. E. L. Woodin retire in rotation, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Messrs. F. Henderson and E. L. Woodin, who are eligible for re-election.

J. ORANGE, Chairman.

MR. ORANGE'S REPORT.

Hongkong, September 23rd, 1891.  
To the Board of Directors, the Penjom and Sunghe Du Samantan Mining Company, (Limited).

Gentlemen, I have the honor to report as follows on the mines and operations of the Company in Pahang:

I arrived at Penjom, via Selangor and Ranau, on July 18th and met Mr. Hardie, resident manager, and Mr. Becker, the manager of the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company.

The mine at Penjom which gave its name to the Company, is now known as Jalla, and is being worked by the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company of London, which was formed for the purpose of taking over this property and 20 square miles of the Corporation.

The unfortunate circumstances under which this Company was floated, and the position it is now in are so well known that it is needless to repeat them here. At present the only funds available is a remittance which is being made monthly of £400, and with this Mr. Becker, who has the management of the Company, is doing a very good amount of work.

Former reports have described the somewhat startling features of Jalla, the extraordinary amount of labour expended in former times by native workers, the large cutting made by the alluvial workers, and the dam for storing water. The amount of work done at the present time will be of more interest. Two places are in the Company's office showing the development in the two main levels, viz., 50 and 110 feet levels, amounting to roughly about 700 yards of levels and 300 feet of shaft and winch. I was surprised

at the amount of work done, and also at the large body of quartz and crushing stuff available for milling, amounting to about 10,000 tons.

As will be seen from the plans, the formation of the lode is very irregular, and though there is so large an amount of lode it is difficult to say where exactly a wall can be fixed. In order to be more certain of the formation of the lode, deeper drilling must be resorted to, and it is probable that the lode will then come to a more definite form; in the meantime there cannot be any fear that the limit of depth has been reached, and there is the very satisfactory assurance that the lode is richer at the 110 feet level than at the 50 feet.

The following extracts from a letter of Mr. A. Becker to the Secretary of the Penjom-Pahang Company, London, give a scientific description of the mine:—"The deposit we are attacking is of a most peculiar nature, bearing no resemblance to any ordinary lode, but consisting of a great zone enclosed in the clay slate formation, the matter of which, for convenience only called lode, stuff, is a mixture of the same rock confoundedly interspersed with porphyritic dyke matter and quartz veins, the whole dyked out of all semblance to stratification, impregnated by metamorphism with base metallic sulphides, and being more or less auriferous throughout. Certain shoots of quartz are gradually being discovered and lines of fissures, the most prominent of which are level have followed, but all show most characteristic lack of individual continuity, so that we have to pierce the enormous mass in all directions, whilst neither exploration nor exploitation can be carried out with the facility usually afforded in ordinary lode mining. The extent of this auriferous quartz zone is still quite unknown to us, though, from the evidence of outcrops and traces of former workings, it is unquestionably very great, following a general strike, about north to south, the quartz extends far into the strata, and of several hundred yards in breadth, but most indefinite on this line of dimension."

"For simple convenience we call the most characteristic (graphitic) black slate, full of pyrites and quartz stringers and merging with black lime-stone, the lode stuff, taking its junction with the grey slate and other rocks (conglomerate and quartzose porphyry) as this so called foot wall, which follows the main course of formation and gives us a datum to work on."

"As a matter of fact we have so far found this the richest region, though it is very irregularly defined, the quartz extends far into the strata, underlying this foot wall, whilst of a 'hanging' we have not yet found any indication."

"One general conclusion of most satisfactory nature has been arrived at, namely that quartz and average lode stuff of much richer grade have so far been found on the 100 feet than was got on the upper level."

The plant fixed consists of 225 H.P. new Robey mining and pumping engine, which has just been erected and set to work, replacing an old water wheel and Tangye engine and boiler which was broken down by this Company. However, work has been steadily carried on at Jalla.

The crushing at Jalla gave a yield of about 7 dwts. out of an assay value of about 1 ounce; this low result is due to the lack of suitable machinery, and the large reserve of reefing stuff fully warrants the construction of an entire new mill.

The last report issued stated that it was proposed to give the London Company notice of our intention to resume possession at the end of a period not exceeding six months. Your Directors have not done so, as the advice of our London representatives is very strongly against such a course; they have considerable hope that the position of the guarantors will be improved, and with the matter left in their hands. The Directors are satisfied that they are pushing the matter to a settlement as vigorously as possible, and that no undue leniency is being shown.

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Mr. Hardie has continued to act as our resident manager at Penjom, and also for the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company; and Mr. Blamey has had charge of all the Company's business outside of the Penjom-Pahang Gold Company's property. The expenses of the Company have been heavy, but have been considerably reduced during the past six months. The unexpected drought prevented the running of the steamer, and consequently very little money was earned.

The Directors wish to record their sense of the valuable services rendered by your representatives in London—Messrs. Ewart and Brodie. Both of these gentlemen are devoting a very great deal of time and attention, and the latter being thoroughly acquainted with the locality and with your views, his services are of the utmost value to us in the present juncture.

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Under clause 5 of Article 15 of the Company, Mr. James Orange and Mr. E. L. Woodin retire in rotation, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Messrs. F. Henderson and E. L. Woodin, who are eligible for re-election.

Bar gold obtained.....40 ozs.=6.1 dwt. per ton.  
Tailings saved on blue.....  
Lost.....  
In river.....

130 tons quartz, 130 ozs. 20 dwt.=1 oz.  
This is a very serious defect and should not be permitted to remain. Mr. Becker has urged the London Company to send out Freezers and Berdan pans, of which there should be six of each, and the gold saved would soon pay for the machinery. It is plain to see such good material as this, and to let it go to waste is a serious question for the parent company as to how long the present state of affairs, and the debt due is going to be permitted to remain.

The men are comfortably housed and all luxuries of food and clothing are supplied, and the whole place has a business-like appearance, only lacking very little to make it exceedingly prosperous.

If the Company were in the possession of sufficient funds, I would unhesitatingly recommend that immediate and most forcible steps be taken to obtain re-possession of the Jalla mine, which is sufficiently opened out and merely requires the requisite machinery. It is difficult to think that with a known body of ore in sight of so large a quantity as 10,000 tons, proved by milling and assays to be about 1 oz. to the ton, and at such a small amount of capital necessary is not forthcoming from the London Company.

Mr. Becker is devoting a very great deal of personal care and attention to the Jalla mine, and in spite of the small allowance for work from London, is accomplishing a large amount of work.

The Gubau workings are situated about a mile from Bukit-Sarang, which was the camping place of exploratory work in the northern part of the concession. The valley site is covered with old native workings. Mr. Blamey very soon had his drill in the country, fixed on this spot as the most worthy of attention, and during five months has carried out a great deal of work with very satisfactory results. The ground is very favorable, no rock being met with, only clay and porphyritic shales.

The working now consists of a cutting, running into and out a line with a few pairs of a hill between two valleys, and at the eastern side of this, and at a depth from the surface, varying from 10 to 25 ft., a deposit of auriferous matter exists. The first discoveries were met with in a cross-cut, when a small ladder was set with cutting fair gold with coarse N. and S. dip, and which rapidly opened out to 5 ft., being followed 6 ft., in a cross-cut, very rich, giving 1 oz. to 300 lbs. of dirt. Further drives to the west of and parallel to the cutting, revealed

gold-bearing dirt, and cross-cuts to the cutting proved its width, and it was in driving one of the cross-cuts that on the 11th of April Mr. Blamey discovered the rich vein which gave 120 to 130 oz. of gold from 5 cwt. of dirt, and from which 15 lbs. selected by Mr. Hardie gave 3 oz. 13 dwts. 12 gr., which was sent to head-office as a sample.

Small shafts have been sunk at various points, showing the gold deposit to be of unknown depth.

It is difficult to locate in such a large mass an especially strong leaders which would appear to be a lode; the general direction can only be taken as N. and S.; at the S. end of the cutting a run of quartz may be taken as a lode, and 10 tons of this stuff was crushed at Penjom with the magnificent yield of over 44 oz. of gold. A tunnel was therefore started north, and in what can be presumed to be the right direction for a lode, a vein of strong quartz was met, estimated at 2 oz. to the ton of wash dirt, leaving the quartz untouched, which yields very good prospect.

In a drive still further north there were three small leaders, but being so near the surface, these cannot be expected to give exact indications, and further exploration will be continued.

To the south of the cutting drives have been made, but only small leaders met with; the drive being very near the surface. Further work is being continued, as the indications are altogether of such a promising nature.

To the east of the cutting, where old native shafts and workings abound, one shaft was enlarged and deepened and thought at bottom, but poor results were obtained, still in panning certain parts of the side, very good results can be obtained by washing; it would, therefore, seem that the extent of auriferous deposit can only be learned by very systematic and careful exploration.

It is estimated that to the level of cutting there is an extent of auriferous ground at least 700 ft. in length by 20 ft. in width and of unknown depth; above the level of the cutting the wash dirt contains an exceedingly valuable asset, as the being visible in the cutting, and an exceedingly rich batch exists in this area, and the ore-burden only averages about 25 ft. thick. Instructions were given for the whole of the wash dirt to be removed and treated down to the level of the cutting only.

The wash dirt, though apparently consisting of soft powdery clay, in places is mixed with quartz more or less abundant, and the dirt will be first roughly washed in tubs, and then the sand separated in *dulang* or native wood dishes. All the waste will be separated and stacked, forming an exceedingly valuable asset, as the clean quartz obtained from washing of dirt invariably shows an average of 1 to 2 oz. to the ton. The overflow or slurry water will be led into ditches, and any gold will be deposited; these ditches will be periodically cleaned out and washed in *dulang*, the overflowing water being passed over silvered plates, and the free gold obtained in amalgam.

It is therefore hoped that little will be wasted from the washing, though no part of the quartz will be treated; this must be for mining.

The portion at present instructed to be dealt with as far as mentioned, only the small part above the level of the cutting. The natural water level of the valley is about 5 feet below the level of cutting, but by cutting a deep ditch to a lower portion of the valley, the water can be drained to say 12 feet deep, thus giving a large body of ground to be worked if the deposit continues.

It is quite impossible to estimate the probable yield per ton of this deposit, without extended experience and large average quantities treated. Seven different places were selected and washed, and varied from 2 oz. to 5 dwts. per ton, and quartz being taken into consideration, and in the rich patches 15 lbs. of dirt will give 3 or 4 oz.

It is practically certain that the washing operations will at least produce sufficient gold to cover expense.

To show the exceeding irregularity and patchiness of the formation, the following is the result of one day's washing made in my presence; all the wash-dirt was taken from a small place not exceeding 4' x 5' x 3':

1 Ton lot of dirt.....38 ozs. 12 dwts. 18 grs.  
2 Baskets from one size 9" x 16" x 9"  
3 Baskets picked by Mr. Hardie.....

22 ozs. 10 dwts. 3 grs.  
Besides these were washed 3 tons of dirt, returns of which have not arrived, but which I do not expect will yield more than 20 oz.

It is difficult to say when prospecting ceases, and when exploitation or working should commence. It is presumed that the parent company is neither anxious nor financially able to completely develop a field like Gubau. The work now done shows a proven, auriferous ground with strong indications of the existence of a true treasure vein; to be absolutely certain on this point, however, will require the expenditure of capital, and should be the work of a subsidiary company who, however, can start, as few companies can, with assets in sight which should far exceed preliminary expenses. The small amount of ground now being worked by the present Company will give the experience of working and definite value to the ground remaining, while the quartz left and to be gained will justify the erection of a small battery, the profits from which would keep exploratory work going, if it is required.

It is therefore recommended that, at Gubau, the parent company should only continue such exploratory work (to locate reef) as can be paid for by output of gold; leaving to others the complete development of the field.

The formation of a small subsidiary company would perhaps be the least difficult to effect. The financial markets of London and Australia are hardly favourable for the floating of mining companies in Pahang, and the preliminary exploration and working of the Gubau field would not present a small "outcrop" of reef uncovered on side of hill, the stone "showered" very good visible gold, leaders were met and the supposed lode was undefined; a cross-cut is now being continued south, and has cut a strong leader of quartz running about E. and W., a different direction to the outcrop at the mouth of the tunnel. This leader will be followed to see if it prove to be a true lode; 70 ft. lower than this level a new drive was commenced into side of hill and shows different country, soft clay shale, and level being entirely covered on side of hill, the stone "showered" very good visible gold, leaders were met and the supposed lode was undefined; a cross-cut is now being continued south, and has cut a strong leader of quartz running about E. and W., a different direction to the outcrop at the mouth of the tunnel. 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## THE HOPPO OF CANTON AND THE HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

## AN APPEAL TO THE BRITISH MINISTER.

The following letter from the Chairman of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce to Sir John Walsham, British Minister at Peking, referring to certain alleged infringements of treaty rights by the Hoppo of Canton, has been handed to us for publication:—

September 23rd.

Sir,—The Committee of this Chamber beg to bring to the notice of your Excellency that they have received complaints from the leading shipping-interests of the colony regarding the action of the Hoppo of Canton in establishing a system of duties on exports below the Treaty tariff, for produce carried by native craft which are under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Customs, and less than the rates charged on the same produce when carried by foreign vessels trading under the supervision of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

The effect of this has been to drive the carrying-trade from foreign vessels to junk, and the action of the Hoppo, the Chamber most respectfully submits, is a distinct breach of the Treaty. Decidedly, in a case so urgent as this, immediate redress, the Committee took the liberty of addressing the following telegram to your Excellency on the 19th instant:—

Canton.

"Native Customs are granting special privileges on exports by native junks, thereby diverting trade from foreign vessels Hongkong. Chamber desires immediate strict compliance Treaty tariff privileges uniform to all; forwarding explanatory despatch."

The Chamber believes they are correct in stating that the Hoppo is an official connected with, and appointed from the Imperial Palace at Peking, and it is the special function of this officer to collect revenue for Court purposes. This, the Committee submits, does not clothe the Hoppo with any special privileges outside of the Treaty, and any infringement by him of those treaties, by granting special facilities of any kind to a section of the trade, is a distinct deviation from treaty obligations.

The Committee cannot refrain from directing attention to the loss that is apparent to the general Imperial revenues of China by the action of the Hoppo. For every concession made by that officer decreases the revenue that the Chinese Government are themselves losers by the preferential taxation now levied by the Hoppo.

The Committee from their investigations are satisfied with the justice of the complaints that have been made, and would further intimate that, though no claim has been made for loss of trade consequent upon the illegal acts of the Hoppo, yet if one was preferred there would be strong grounds for its enforcement.

The Committee think they cannot do better than give the following extracts which fully state in their own words the particulars of the grievances referred by the shipping interests of this colony:—

"We beg leave to call the attention of your Chamber to the present peculiar position of the carrying-trade between Canton and this port, more particularly as regards tea intended for transshipment to ocean steamers."

"Until the present season this tea carrying was done almost entirely by foreign vessels, the greater part being brought down by river steamers, and transhipped here, or upon occasion ocean steamers loaded at Whampoa for London direct."

"During the past few months, however, the entire export of tea from Canton has been made in native junks to Hongkong, or in other words, the carrying trade in this staple has completely gone out of the hands of foreign shipowners."

"The reason for this change is not far to seek. It consists in the inducement offered to native teams by the Canton Hoppo to ship the tea by junk and pass it through the native Customs, by charging a much lower duty than that imposed by the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs, and which would have to be paid if the tea were shipped by foreign vessels."

"Tea perfectly free from dust or small leaf, of which there are but very few, do not benefit materially by being passed through the native Customs, but other tea, of which the entire export to foreign countries consists, get through at a considerable reduction of duty. After paying junk freight (about 85 cents per ton) teams can put their tea on board at Hongkong cheaper than they can deliver on board the river steamers at Canton by about seven mace per picul (or nearly 10) one half penny per lb. and as teams themselves inform us, they can sometimes, before settling a big line of tea, make arrangements for it to pass through the native Custom House extra cheap so as to induce business, in fact any regular tariff rate appears to be entirely ignored, and the question of export duty resolves itself into one of a bargain with the authorities. The consequence of this is that tea is now forced to buy their tea for delivery in Hongkong harbours instead of in Canton as formerly, and a valuable carrying trade has been diverted from foreign steamers to native junks."

"The principal sufferers by this change are, of course, the river steamship owners, by direct loss of freight; but ocean steamers are also adversely affected in the following manner:—

"Cargo is sent down in junks at all times, (not timed to suit the steamer) and the tea is not as it would be sent by river steamer, and should it arrive some days before the ocean steamer is ready to load, it has to be stored and insured against fire at the ship-owners' expense. The junks frequently make long passages from Canton, and the steamers are often detained until their arrival or have to incur the expense of sending steam-launches to meet the junks and tow them down. In the case of mail steamers, having a fixed time for leaving, the junks have on several occasions arrived after their departure and the freight on the cargo, for which space had been reserved, has consequently been lost."

"We have specially intimated tea, but the foregoing remarks apply more or less to other descriptions of cargo, notably to silk waste and rattan ware."

"We regard the action of the Chinese Government in allowing the Canton Hoppo to charge on goods shipped by native craft lower duties than are provided for by the Treaty tariff and levied by the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs on cargo shipped by foreign vessels, as opposed to the spirit of all its treaties with Foreign Powers, also as tending to create a monopoly in favour of the junks and as placing an obstacle on the way of free competition, and therefore in direct contravention of article XIV of the French Treaty of 1858. It is also, in our opinion, a distinct violation of the United States Treaty of 1859, article III of which provides that duties shall be levied on goods for foreign and Chinese."

"We bring these facts to the notice of your Chamber, and would ask its aid in representing the matter in H.B.M. Government with the view of bringing about the removal of this barrier to free competition."

"Overlook no word of the two Articles in the Treaty to which we have referred."

French Treaty of 1858:—

Art. XIV.—No privileged commercial society shall be authorised to be established in China, and

the same shall apply to any organised coalition having for its end the exercise of a monopoly of trade. In case of the contravention of the present article the Chinese authorities, on the representation of the Consul or Consular Agent, shall advise as to the means of dissolving such associations, of which they are also bound to prevent the existence by the preceding prohibitions, so as to remove all that may stand in the way of free competition.

United States Treaty of 1859:—

Art. III.—His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China hereby promises and agrees that no other kind or higher rate of tonnage duties or duties for imports or exports or coastwise trade shall be imposed or levied in the open ports of China upon vessels wholly belonging to citizens of the United States or upon the produce, manufactures, or merchandise imported in the same from the United States or from any foreign country, or upon the produce, manufactures, or merchandise exported in the same to the United States, or to any foreign country, or transported in the same, from one open port of China to another, than are imposed, or levied on vessels or cargoes of any other nation, or on those of Chinese subjects. The United States hereby promises and agrees that no other kind or higher rate of tonnage duties and dues for imports shall be imposed or levied in the ports of the United States upon vessels wholly belonging to the subjects of his Imperial Majesty, coming either directly or by way of any foreign port from any of the ports of China which are open to foreign trade to the ports of the United States, or returning therefrom either directly or by way of any foreign port to any of the open ports of China, or upon the produce, manufactures, or merchandise imported in the same from China, or from any foreign country, than are imposed or levied on vessels of any other nation which make no discrimination against the United States in tonnage dues or duties on imports, exports, or coastwise trade, or than are imposed or levied on vessels and cargoes of citizens of the United States.

I have the honour to be, Your Excellency's Most obedient servant, (Signed) S. MACKINTOSH, Chairman.

Sir John Walsham, Bart., Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in China, Peking.

## SUPREME COURT.

## IN BANKRUPTCY.

## IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM HOWELL FORBES.

## REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE.

Mr. W. H. Forbes, chief partner of Messrs. Russell and Co., who after a long and honorable commercial career in China was unlucky enough to meet that adverse fortune which occasionally even the greatest care and circumspection cannot ward off, fell into the hands of the law on the 19th inst. The following is the report of the Official Assignee, which we have much pleasure in publishing as a complete vindication of one of the "straightest" men the colony of Hongkong has ever known:—

"The Bankrupt was the senior partner of the firm of Russell and Company, an old established firm of merchants, trading 67 years ago at Canton and afterwards extending their business to Hongkong and the Treaty Ports of China as well as to New York and London."

"In May of this year the firm became involved in difficulties at Shanghai and by an assignment dated the 9th of June last, and made between the firm of Russell and Company, therein correctly described as then composed of the said William Howell Forbes, who resided at Rose Hill, Cause Road in Hongkong, John Murray Forbes, who resided at No. 105 Madison Avenue in Morristown in the State of New Jersey, Samuel Wylie Pomeroy, who resided at No. 77 Cadogan Square, London, S.W., England, Charles Vincent Smith, who resided at Yangtze Road, the Bund, in Shanghai, China, and Charles Alexander Tomes, who resided at Victoria, Hongkong, parties of the first part, and Henry Hannan of New York in the United States of America, party of the second part, the said parties assigned all their estate and effects of every name, kind, and description whatsoever, as well real as personal, and wherever situated, unto the said Henry Hannan as a Trustee for the creditors of Russell and Company."

"This deed of assignment has been duly recorded in the State of New York, and notice of it has been extensively advertised in Hongkong, and as far as I can ascertain, the deed is in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, and a valid assignment according to those laws of all the property wherever situated of Russell and Co., to the Trustee, Henry Hannan, upon trust for Russell & Co.'s creditors."

"On the 15th July last judgments were entered against the Bankrupt and the said Charles Alexander Tomes as partners in Hongkong of the said firm of Russell and Co., at the several suits of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, the New Oriental Bank Corporation, and the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, for sums amounting in the aggregate to \$227,775.25, and executions were issued the same day against the bankrupt for recovery of these said sums."

"On the 16th July last the said William Howell Forbes and Charles Alexander Tomes filed their petition in this honorable court praying to be adjudicated bankrupts."

"On the 20th of the same month of July, Kwok Hang Shann of Canton, merchant, a creditor of the said firm of Russell and Company, also filed his petition praying for the adjudication of the said firm of Russell and Company as bankrupts against all the partners of Russell and Company, and by order of this honorable court, dated the 23rd July 1891, the said William Howell Forbes, and Charles Alexander Tomes were adjudicated bankrupts upon such last mentioned petition."

"The said William Howell Forbes has filed a statement of his private estate, showing a value of \$25,141.50, but which I estimate to realize about \$16,000. In addition to this estate it is hereafter found that the property known as Rose Hill, situated between the Cause Road and Robinson Road in this Colony, purchased with the money of his wife and money borrowed on mortgage by the said William Howell Forbes, is the property of the said William Howell Forbes by marital right, then I estimate the value of his separate estate, and making allowance for the said mortgage debt, at the sum of \$40,000 or thereabouts."

"There are no claims against the private estate of the said William Howell Forbes, unless it be in respect of calls to be made upon shares in various companies in which he is a shareholder, and his bankruptcy is occasioned entirely in respect of his liabilities as a partner in the firm of Russell and Company and for no other reason."

"With regard to the assets and liabilities of Russell and Company there are within the jurisdiction of this honorable court sums of money, goods and effects amounting in value to about \$14,000. There are also certain crown leasehold properties at Bowington, standing in the name of the said John Murray Forbes, and of

the partners of the said firm, of considerable value. The said John Murray Forbes, however, claims the said property as belonging to a trust for the benefit of the family of Hosqua to the extent of Tls. 25,000."

"It is if it be hereafter held that this Trust is bad in law as regards the property in question, such property will probably then be held to belong to John Murray Forbes and William Howell Forbes, as surviving partners of the original firm of Russell & Company, and be available as assets in the winding up of Russell & Company."

"The above-mentioned Banks also claim the said property under their executors, and the legality of the above claims of the Trustees for Hosqua and of the Banks has yet to be tried."

"I have obtained an account of the assets and liabilities of the firm of Russell & Company in London, showing liabilities £36,775.12 and assets £21,716.611, leaving a debit balance against the firm of £15,058.143 in respect of the London business."

"I have not yet been able to obtain the statement of the firm's position at New York and Shanghai."

"The creditors of the firm in Hongkong, excluding the said Banks, who have not proved, have filed claims to the amount of \$216,361. The other creditors who have filed claims against the estate of Russell & Co. are from Canton, three creditors with claims amounting to \$9,229.23 from the United States of America two claims amounting to \$112,088.81, and from Java claims amounting to \$24.35."

"I believe the largest claims against Russell & Co. are in respect of its business at Shanghai, but although the order of adjudication in Bankruptcy has been advertised there, no claims have been sent in; and I believe the agent in Shanghai of the said trustee Henry Hannan is winding up the affairs of Russell & Co. there."

"The causes of the failure of Russell & Co. cannot, I think, be attributed to its business in Hongkong and South China, which appears to have been in a sound condition. The main cause of the failure I attribute to the Shanghai business, and mistakes and miscalculations of the managing partner there, the said Charles Vincent Smith—loving a large claim of money from Hongkong to Shanghai, which the firm ultimately could not meet in view of the pressing claims of the said banks against Russell & Co. in Hongkong."

"I do not see that any blame attaches to the bankrupts with reference to the affairs of the firm at Shanghai."

"The only reason I can see for the bankruptcy of the said William Howell Forbes and Charles Alexander Tomes when the deed of assignment of the 9th June last for the benefit of the creditors was already in operation, is that it protected them personally from the judgment debts of the said banks and renders possible a claim by the assignees in the bankruptcy to the valuable property at Bowington for the general body of the creditors of Russell & Co. as against the preference claimed by the said banks to the said property in the event of the claim by Hongkong's trustee not being substantiated."

"I know of no reason why the bankrupt, William Howell Forbes, should not pass his last examination and obtain his discharge in due course."

Dated this 22nd day of September, 1891.

(Sd.) BRUCE SHEPHERD, Acting Registrar and Official Assignee.

"DR. BILL" AT THE CITY HALL.

The Willard Opera Company made their reappearance at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on Saturday night last in "Dr. Bill," before a fairly large if not quite a crowded house. "Dr. Bill" is not an opera; it is not even an opera bouffe; it is far removed from either—it is described as a farcical comedy adapted from the French of Albert Camé, and the adapter, we believe, is Hamilton Aldé, author of several fairly good stage plays, such as "A King's Days' Wonder," and of numerous comic ballads.

"Dr. Bill" achieved an almost phenomenal success in London—sold its two nights, "Pink Dominoes" and "The Arabian Nights"—but after our experience of Saturday night we rather think that Mr. Pemberton Willard, cleverest of Far Eastern managerial artists, must have very materially added to, or subtracted from the farce—that the proper title—as originally presented. Not that that makes any difference to the article (or otherwise) value of Saturday night, but a piece is worthless if it is not produced, and in duty bound we deal with it as it was produced.

"Dr. Bill" is not a strictly moral farce—rather the other way. There are some suggestions that are decidedly broad and some that may be fairly described as delicate—treading on dangerous ground. It may be that the epigrammatic dialogue, the smart repartee, compromising situations, and a general *tout ensemble* that is of the world widely, went down with London audiences because nothing of the whole show was beyond direct suggestion to the point; all things are said and supposed to be pure, but of course that is one of the convenient fictions of modern life; still, so long as the thing that is called morality is not openly outraged, "the pure" can put up with a fairly vast amount of innuendo *à la Parisienne*. And they had a treat at the Theatre Royal on Saturday."

"Dr. Bill" has no plot; so we are saved the trouble of spinning a meaningless yarn which would lead us to the point, and, in the end, a clever little sketch, the situations are well arranged and sensational, the business runs smoothly along and the *dénouement* is far from being unsatisfactory; but—yet—there is a *but* in this show which cannot be overlooked—a prudent business which prevails from commencement to finish leaves a nasty taste in one's mouth, even if he isn't going to church next morning. There is an old and well recognized axiom in the dramatic profession that the plot is always sound policy rather than under-do than to act any part. In our view, that is sound wisdom. Now, in thinking over the representation of "Dr. Bill" by Mr. Willard's Company on its merits as a dramatic impersonation, it has struck us that a great deal of the piece's only too plainly defined offensiveness would have been avoided had considerably more been left to the imagination of the audience. In other words, the suggestiveness of the situations and the *world wide* innuendo which speaks through suggestions that are outside the pale of criticism and which we are bound to consider were unnecessary, uncalled for, and in the worst of taste—especially in a limited community like that of Hongkong."

"It must not be imagined that we are harshly or adversely criticizing the performance of "Dr. Bill." Far from it! The sparkling little farce was most carefully staged, and if the applause of the audience counts for anything, most successfully represented. The defects also indicated were

prominent and have been made the subject of a good deal of desultory discussion in social circles, but there are no two opinions as to the distinct merits of the performance. Mr. Pemberton Willard is the best light comedian in modern comedy that has ever faced the footlights in Hongkong, and his *Dr. William Brown* was quite equal to his admirable impersonations in the "The Arabian Nights" and "Impulse." Always easy, natural and perfectly at home on the stage, Mr. Willard rarely makes a mistake; but we question if his undoubtedly clever and amusing but certainly risky burlesque of a certain notorious Parisian dance did not pass the limits of good taste, and really the Quaker's business with *Miss Fawcett* (Miss F. Triggs) was far too suggestive for a religious town like this. Miss Vera Patey has developed into an actress of much ability, and as *Miss Horton*, late of "The Frivolity" Theatre, fairly astonished us by her naturalness and keen perception of the requirements of the part. Miss Patey must have been drinking freely at the fountain of dramatic inspiration along with Miss Vera Patey, and we should like to see this lady in some other character before indulging in what might be construed into adverse criticism. Miss Bessie Royal, under some disadvantages, did fairly well as *Miss Firmian*, and in minor parts both Miss Roberts and Miss Norman passed the ordeal satisfactorily. Mr. Harry Hall is evidently a young comedian of more than ordinary promise, and although heavily handicapped in an old man's part, his *Mr. Firmian* was distinctly better than a trifle. Miss Miss Patey was not particularly prominent as *Miss Brown*, and we should like to see this lady in some other character before indulging in what might be construed into adverse criticism. Miss Bessie Royal, under some disadvantages, did fairly well as *Miss Firmian*, and in minor parts both Miss Roberts and Miss Norman passed the ordeal satisfactorily. 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## Insurance.

STEAMERS.

ARRATTOON APCAR, British steamer, 1,392, I. G. Spence, 2nd Oct br.—Calcutta 16th Sept., Penang 2nd, and Singapore 26th, Opium and General.—D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.

AVOCHIE, British steamer, 1,055, T. Rowlin, 15th Sept.—Saloon 10th Sept., Rica.—Melchers & Co.

BELLEROPHON, British steamer, 1,156, Guthrie, 1st Oct.—Liverpool, and Singapore 25th Sept., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

BUSAGNO, Italian steamer, 1,494, L. Baccaroli, 1st Oct.—Rome via 13th Sept., and Singapore 24th, General.—Carlowitz & Co.

BRECONSHIRE, British steamer, 1,582, Jackson, 5th Oct.—Shanghai 30th Sept., General.—Dodwell, Carilll & Co.

CHANG-CHIEV, British steamer, 1,213, Fred. W. bb, 23rd Sept.—Saloon 12th Sept., Rica.—Run via Chan.

CHINGOW, British steamer, 1,556 G. L. Grattan, 6th Oct.—Fochow 4th Oct., General.—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.

CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO, American steamer, 1,548, Wm. Ward, 20th Sept.—San Francisco 3rd Sept., and Yokohama 23rd Sept., Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

COLLINGHAM, British steamer, 1,140, G. W. Watson, 10th Sept.—Kutchinotsu 20th Coals.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

COSMOPOLIT, German steamer, 551, W. T. Scheffer, 4th October.—Touzon and Orl, General.—Wieler & Co.

DECIMA, German steamer, 965, C. Christensen, 14th October.—Saloon 30th Sept., Rica.—Geo. R. Stevens & Co.

DEVAWONGSE, British steamer, 1,077, P. H. Loff, 2nd October.—Bangkok 26th Sept., Rica and General.—Scottish Oriental S. S. Co.

DORA FORSTER, British steamer, 1,370, David Morgan, 1st October.—Kutchinotsu 26th Sept., Coals.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

DORIS, German steamer, 771, T. Raben, 5th Oct.—Nenchwang 20th Sept., Beans and General.—Wieler & Co.

DROT, Norwegian steamer, 2,180, Hansen, 5th Oct.—Kutchinotsu 29th Sept., Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN, British steamer, 5,003, Geo. A. Lee, R.N.R., 1st October.—Vancouver 9th Sept., Victoria, B.C. 10th, Yokohama 23rd, Kobe 25th, and Woosung 28th, General.—Dodwell, Carilll & Co.

FAME, British steamer, 117, Lieut. Wm. G. Comley, R.N.R.—Hongkong Government tender.

HAIPHONG, French steamer, 874, Bousquet, 5th October.—Haiphong 2nd October, and Hoihow 4th, General.—Messageries' Maritimes.

HAIPHONG, British steamer, 1,122, H. C. A. Harris, 6th October.—Fochow 2nd Oct., Amoy 3rd, and Swatow 5th, General.—Douglas Laprakl & Co.

JOHANN, German steamer, 427, H. Binge, 15th Sept.—Touzon 10th Sept., General.—Wieler & Co.

KEEFOO, Chinese steamer, 1,138, W. H. Lunt, 6th Oct.—Shanghai 2nd Oct., and Swatow 5th, General.—C. M. S. N. Co.

MEUNON, British steamer, 850, A. Dorff, 20th Sept.—Sandakan 25th Sept., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

NINGPO, German steamer, 762, R. Köhler, 4th October.—Shanghai 1st October, General.—Siemssen & Co.

PARTHIA, British steamer, 2,035, Jas. Pantin, R.N.R., 11th Sept.—Vancouver 20th Aug., Yokohama 4th Sept., and Shanghai 9th General.—Dodwell, Carilll & Co.

PILOT FISH, British steamer, 161, A. Stapanl.—Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.

RIVERSDALE, British steamer, 1,311, J. Mooney, 11th Sept.—Nagasaki 16th Sept., Coals.—Mitsui Bishi Colliery.

SYDNEY, French steamer, 2,133, Delacrolx, 6th Oct.—Shanghai 3rd October, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes.

TEHERAN, British steamer, 1,684, V. W. Hall, 30th Sept.—Bombay 12th Sept., and Singapore 23rd, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

TONGHAM, British steamer, 1,111, J. Jenkins, 1st Oct.—Bangkok 25th Sept., Rica and Log Wood.—Kia Tye Loong.

TRITOS, German steamer, 1,142, F. Hegler, 10th Sept.—Sourabaya 19th Sept., Sugar.—Geo. R. Stevens & Co.

TEIHAN, British steamer, 2,000, W. N. Allison, 6th Oct.—Fochow 4th Oct., Tea.—Butterfield & Swire.

VORWAERTS, German steamer, 612, L. Moller, 27th Sept.—Hollo 23rd Sept., Wood.—Wieler & Co.

WUOTAN, German steamer, 1,015, A. Ott, 6th Oct.—Swatow 5th October, General.—Wieler & Co.

FAILING VESSELS.

A. H. SMITH, American ship, 1,459, Chas. S. Kendall, 12th Sept.—New York 21st May, Kerosene Oil.—Hewett & Co.

BITTERN, British barque, 383, John Stronach, 29th Sept.—Freemantle 21st August, Sandalwood.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

CARL FRIEDRICH, German ship, 2,040, H. Fröhlich, 6th July.—Cardiff 21st March, Coals.—Melchers & Co.

DOROTHE, German bark, 310, Angus Croal, 16th Sept.—Bangkok 3rd Sept., General.—Chinese.

ELER, Chinese ship, 1,375, Th. Pfleger, 5th August.—Cardiff 9th March, Coal.—Siemssen & Co.

EMMA P. CROWLEY, American bark, 1,085, A. S. Pendleton, 20th Sept.—Shanghai 19th September, Ballast.—Shewan & Co.

ERLECOMBE, Chinese bark, 457, Opium Examination hulk, Stonecutters Island—Chinese Customs.

HARVARD, American bark, 986, L. A. Colcord, 27th August.—Shanghai 11th August, Ballast.—Order.

IRIS, British ship, 206, Shaw, 31st August.—Geraldton, W.A., 1st August, Sandalwood.—Order.

KITTY, British bark, 803, Wilson, 21st July.—Singapore 7th July, Timber.—D. Munn.

MARLA, Spanish schooner, 1,000, Francisco Olaseo, 9th July.—Manila 16th June, Ballast.—Master.

MARY L. STONE, American ship, 1,453, C. C. Paul, 3rd October.—New York 21st May, Kerosene Oil.—W. Hewett & Co.

MARIE BEKO, German bark, 536, H. F. indrichs, 26th August.—Whampoa 25th August General.—Wieler & Co.

NAM-SHUN-SHING, Chinese 3-m. schooner, 245, Leo Light Tong, 25th Sept.—Touzon 8th Sept., Wood.—Long Koo.

N. PENDLETON, American ship, 1,335, J. N. Pendleton, 23rd August.—New York 19th April, Kerosene Oil.—Shewan & Co.

WM. LE LACHURE, British bark, 573, W. Reynell, 26th September.—Laguanmanco (Philippines); 3rd Sept., Timber.—Gibb, Livingston & Co.

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